

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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71

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIE-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

RSR-01 /108 W

----- 021686

O R 091216 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9878

INFO USSAG/ CHIEF OF STAFF

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5970

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI VS

SUBJECT: INITIAL REPORTS FROM SURVIVORS OF ICCS HELICOPTER #115

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL DANANG BEING REPEATED

QUOTE

DANANG 367

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, VS

SUBJ: INITIAL REPORTS FROM SURVIVORS OF ICCS HELICOPTER #115

HUE POLOFF REPORTS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION GAINED FROM CANDEL
AND INDODEL AT ICCS REGION I HEADQUARTERS AS OF 1345 HOURS APRIL 9:

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QM REGION I CANDEL HEAD JEFFREY CHARLEBOIS STATED THAT ALTHOUGH INITIAL STATEMENTS FROM CREW AND PASSENGERS OF HELICOPTER #115 WERE

DISJOINTED, ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT #115 WAS FLYING APPROXIMATELY 3,000 FEET WITH HELICOPTER #006 IN FRONT AND 300 FEET BELOW. PILOT OF #115 BEGAN TO RECEIVE GROUND FIRE. PILOT THEN LOOKED DOWN AND SAW MISSILE HIT #086, WHICH EXPLODED IN MID-AIR. #115 THEN TOOK EVASIVE ACTION AND LANDED APPROXIMATELY TWO KILOMETERS FROM CRASH SITE OF #006. UPON LANDING, PERSONNEL IN #115 WERE FORCED TO TAKE COVER IN DITCHES BECAUSE OF AK-47 FIRE ON THE GROUND.

2. CANADIAN AND INDONESIAN REGION I MEMBERS WHO TALKED WITH #115 SURVIVORS QUOTED THE SURVIVORS AS SAYING THAT THE COMMUNISTS ATTEMPTED TO FORCE THE PILOT AND CREW OF #115 INTO SIGNING A STATEMENT CONFESSING THAT BOTH HELICOPTERS WERE OFF COURSE. CHARLEBOIS STATED THAT ACCORDING TO CANADIAN GENERAL MCALPINE, THE COMMUNISTS TRIED TO GIVE THE PILOT THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WOULD BE HELD CAPTIVE FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD OF TIME UNLESS HE COOPERATED AND SIGNED THE PAPER. APPARENTLY THE PILOT DID SIGN SUCH A STATEMENT. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER THE ICCS PASSENGERS WERE FORCED TO SIGN THIS STATEMENT. UPON ARRIVAL IN GIO LINH, ICCS SURVIVORS INFORMED THEIR RESPECTIVE SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE TACTICS USED BY THE COMMUNISTS TO OBTAIN THESE STATEMENTS. CHARLEBOIS STATED THAT THE PRG REPRESENTATIVE AT GIO LINH DEMANDED THAT SENIOR ICCS OFFICERS PRESENT ALSO SIGN STATEMENTS ADMITTING THAT HELICOPTERS WERE OFF COURSE BEFORE RELEASING SURVIVORS AND REMAINS. ICCS SENIOR OFFICERS REFUSED.

3. CHARLEBOIS STATED TO HUE POLOFF THAT THUS FAR THERE WAS NOTHING TO INDICATE THAT THE HELICOPTERS MAY HAVE BEEN OFF COURSE. CHARLEBOIS ADDED THAT THE FACT THAT HELICOPTER #115 WAS FIRED UPON AFTER LANDING TENDS TO DISCOUNT THE THEORY THAT THIS INCIDENT WAS ACCIDENTAL, BUT RATHER REINFORCES THE IMPRESSION THAT IT WAS DELIBERATE.

4. CONGEN IS IN PROCESS OF OBTAINING TAPE RECORDINGS OF THE INITIAL DEBRIEFING OF SURVIVORS AT GIO LINH. BROWN UNQUOTE WHITEHOUSE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
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Subject: INITIAL REPORTS FROM SURVIVORS OF ICCS HELICOPTER #115
TAGS: MILI, VS, MILI
To: BUDAPEST
CINCPAC
EA
JAKARTA
JEC PARIS
OTTAWA
SECSTATE WASHDC

USSAG/ CHIEF OF STAFF

WARSAW

Type: TE

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